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EXCISE INCOMING TELEGRAM

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ACTION ARA-16

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 INR-00 NSAE-00 PM-07 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 /056 W

R 191430Z SEP 80
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4902
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KINGSTON 6987

E.O. 12065: GDS 9/13/86 (LAWRENCE LOREN) OR-M
TAGS: PINT, JM
SUBJECT: UPDATE ON STATUS OF ELECTORAL MACHINERY

REF: KINGSTON 6609 (NOTAL)

1. C-ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: DATA PROCESSING OF REGISTRATIONS HS BEEN COMPLETED AND THE VOTERS LIST IS BEING RECONCILED BEFORE PRINTING TO REMOVE 0.5 PERCENT MULTIPLE REGISTRATIONS. SELECTION OF MORE THAN 6,000 POLLING STATIONS, AND 12,000 POLLING OFFICIALS IS WELL ADVANCED. ELECTODAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MILLS EXPECTS TO INFORM THE PRIME MINISTER ON OR ABOUT OCTOBER 1 THAT THE ELECTORAL MACHINERY IS IN PLACE. MANLEY IS WIDELY EXPECTED TO ANNOUNCE ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5 THAT THE ELECTIONS WILL BE ON TUESDAY NOVEMBER 4 PARLIAMENT HAS PASSED ELECTORAL AMENDMENTS TO PERMIT RESCHEDULING KEY ELECTORAL STAGES IN THE EVENT OF VIOLENCE IN A CONSTITUTENCY. ELECTION OFFICIALS ARE CONFIDENT THAT ELECTORAL INK CANNOT BE REMOVED. END SUMMARY.

3. PREPARATIONS FOR THE JAMAICAN ELECTION ARE MOVING AHEAD STRADILY AND ARE ALMOST COMPLETE. THE DATA PROCESSING OF ENUMERATION FORMS HAS BEEN COMPLETED. THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION IS RECONCILING THIS INFORMATION TO DETECT CASES OF MULTIPLE REGISTRATION. MINISTER IN CHARGE OF ELECTIONS SEYMOUR MULLINGS ANNOUNCED IN APRLIAMENT ON SEPTEMBER 16 THAT 89,000 RECORDS HAVE BEEN RECONCILED AND 70,000 REMAIN TO BE RECONCILED. OF THE FIRST 600,000 RECORDS CROSS CHECKED, MULLINGS STATED THAT 3,1214 CASES OF MULTIPLE REGISTRATION WERE DETECTED (A REATE OF 0.5 PERCENT)

4. WHEN ALL CASES OF MULTIPLE REGISTRATION HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED, THE ELECTION COMMISSION WILL ARBITRARILY DECIDE WHICH CONSTITUTENCY TO ASSIGN THOSE VOTERS TO, AS THERE IS INSUFFICIENT TIME TO CHECK EACH SITUATION. ULTIPLE REGISTRATION OCCURED BECAUSE OF MISTAKES MADE BY ENUMERATING VOTERS BEING REGISTERED BY ENUMERATORS IN DIFFERNT LOCATIONS AT DIFFERENT TIMES AND ATTEMPTS BY POLITICAL PARTIES TO OBTAIN EXTRA VOTES. AS SOON AS THE RECONCILIATION PROCESS AND ASSIGNING OF MULTIPLE REGISTRATIONS IN COMPLETE, THE VOTER LIST WILL BE PUBLISHED.

5. WORK ON OTHER ASPECTS OF THE ELECTOEAL MACHINERY IS ALSO PROGRESSING, INCLUDING DECIDING ON THE LOCATION OF POLLIN STATIONS AND THE SELECTION OF PRESIDING OFFICERS, AND POLLING CLERKS AR POLLING STATIONS. IN MANY CASES, PERSONS WHO SERVED AS ENUMERATORS WILL WORK AT POLLING STATIONS. THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION IS USING THE RATIO OF ONE POLLING STATION PER 250 VOTERS.

BASED ON THE RESULT OF THE ENUMERATION, MORE THAN 6,000 STATIONS WILL NEED TO BE IDENTIFIED (AN INCREASE OVER THE FIGURE 5,335 WE WERE TOLD THREE WEEKS AGO) MOST HAVE ALREADY BEEN SELECTED ALTHOUGH THERE REMAIN PROBLEMS IN FINDING POLLING LOCATIONS IN POTENTIAL TROUBLE SPOTS IN THE CORPORATE AREA AND IN CONSTITUENCIES SUCH AS SOUTH EASTERN ST CATHERINE (WHICH HAS BECOME THE CONSTITUTENCY WITH THE LARGEST NUMBER OF VOTERS) WHERE MAJOR POPULATION GROWTH HA TAKEN PLACE SINCE THE LAST VOTERS LIST WAS PREPARED FOR THE 1976 ELECTIONS.

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INCOMING TELEGRAM

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ACTION ARA-16

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PM-07 NSC-05 LAWRENCE
SP-02 SS-15 /056 W

R 191438Z SEP 80
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4983
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KINGSTON 6987

7. THE EMBASSY HAS HEARD FROM SEVERAL RELIABLE SOURCES WITHIN THE PNP THAT THE PNP ANNUAL CONVENTION WILL BE HELD IN MONTEGO BAY OVER THE WEEKEND OF OCTOBER 4|5 MANLEY IS EXPECTED TO ANNOUNCE THE DATE OF THE ELECTIONS AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE CONVENTION AT A LARGE RALLY IN SAM SHARPE SQUARE ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5. HOWEVER, THE DATE OF THE CONVENTION HA NOT YET BEEN ANNOUNCED, NOR HAVE INVITATIONS TO THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, WHICH TRADITIONALLY IS INVITED TO ATTEND BEEN SENT. WE SUSPECT THAT MANLEY WANTS TO BE CERTAIN OF THE TIMING OF MILLS NOTIFICATION BEFORE FIXING THE DATE OF THE CONVENTION.

8. SPECULATION ON THE DATE MANLEY WILL SELECT FOR THE ELECTION CENTERSON TUESDAY NOVEMBE 4. JAMAICAN ELECTIONS BY TRADITION ARE HELD ON A TUESDAY, AND NOVEMBER 4 IS THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE IF AN ANNOUNCEMENT IS MADE ON OCTOBER 5, ALLOWING FOR THE 7-DAY NOTICE FOR NOMINATION DAY AND THE MINIMUM PERIOD OF SIXTEEN DAYS BETKEEN NOMINATION DAY AND ELECTION DAY REQIRED BY THE ELECTORAL LAW.

8. IN RELATED ELECTORAL DEVELOPMENS THE PARLIAMENT ON SEPTEMBER 16 ADOPTED SEVERAL AMENDMENT TO THE REPRESENTATIION OF THE PEOPLE ACT. THE HOST SIGNIFICATN CONCERNS AUTHORIZES THE POSTPONING OF NOMINATION AND ELECTION DAYS IN THE EVENT THE PROCEEDINGS ARE INTERRUPTED OR OBSTRUCTED BY RIOTS, VIOLENCE OR OTHER CIVIL DISTURBANCES. IN THE CASE OF NOMINATION DAY, THE RETURNING OFFICER FOR A CONSTITUTENCY IS EMPOWERED TO ADJOURN PROCEESDING TO THE FOLLOWING DAY (EXCEPT SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS). WITH RESPECT TO AN ADJOURING OF A ELECION BY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL BECAUSE OF VIOLENCE CONDITIONS IN A PARTICULAR CONSTITUENCY, THE NOMINATIONS WOULD BE CONSIDERED INVALID. AND A NEW NOMINATION DAY WOULD HAVE TO BE SCHEDULED WITH 23 DAYS. EXISTING LAW DOES NOT AUTHORIZE DELAYS OF NOMINATION DAY OR POLLING DAY BECAUSE OF VIOLENCE AND THE AMENDMENTS ARE DESIGNED TO INCREASE THE LIKELIHOOD THAT BOTH OF THESE KEY ELECTORAL STAGES TAKE PLACE PEACEFULLY

9. [redacted] THE USE OF INDELIBLE INK TO PREVENT ATTEMPTS TO VOTE MORE THAN ONCE. THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION HA RECEIVED BATTERY POWERED ULTRAVIOLET LIGHT DEVICES FOR EACH POLLING STATION. MOST OF THESE HAVE BEEN FUNDED BY THE UK. THE ELECTORAL INK IN WHICH EVERY VOTER MUST IMMERSE A FINER OR THUMB IS MANUFACTURES FROM A CHEMICAL WHICH MAKES IT VERY DIFFICULT TO REMOVE. [redacted] THE INK IS AT LEAST 98 PECENT GUARANTEED AGAINST REMOVAL AND LASTS FOR SEVERAL DAYS. HE SHOWED THE EMBOFFS ONE OF HIS FINGERS WHICH HAD BEEN DIPPED IN THE INK SIX DAYS BEFORE AND WHICH, DESPITE WASHINGS AND ACCIDENTAL IMMERSION IN BATTERY ACID, STILL HAD CHEMICAL TRACES

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